

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9231
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

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E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: ETEL, ITU
SUBJECT: ITU: MEETING WITH SECRETARY GENERAL

BERN - SEE PARA 8

1. ON MAY 3, MRS. RUTH PHILLIPS, US REP TO ITU ADMIN COUNCIL, ACCOMPANIED BY TELATT, CALLED ON ITU SECRETARY GENERAL MILI AND HAD FRIENDLY DISCUSSION OF FOLLOWING ITEMS:

2. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE IN AFRICA. MILI ASSURED US REP THAT ITU PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACTIVITY WOULD BE FINANCED BY UN AND THAT NO ITU FUNDS WOULD BE INVOLVED. SYG WILL REPORT TO COUNCIL ON ACTIVITIES ENVISAGED.

3. WORLD TELECOMMUNICATIONS YEAR-1983. MILI NOTED THAT HERE TOO, HE EXPECTED THAT ITU'S ROLE AS "LEAD AGENCY" FOR THIS PROJECT WOULD NOT INVOLVE EXPENDITURE OF REGULAR BUDGET FUNDS. HE SAID ITU WOULD SET UP SPECIAL FUND FOR THIS PURPOSE AND THAT VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS
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WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO COVER COSTS OF ITU PARTICIPATION.

4. NEXT PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE. MILI ASSURED US REP HE WAS ABSOLUTELY OPEN ON DATE - IF MAJORITY OF MEMBERS FAVORED 1983, IT WOULD BE FINE WITH HIM. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED LETTER FROM INDIAN ADMINISTRATION REQUESTING THAT THIS SUBJECT BE DISCUSSED

AT UPCOMING SESSION OF COUNCIL AND URGING THAT CONFERENCE BE HELD AS SOON AFTER 1979 WARC AS PRACTICABLE. HE DID NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME DIFFICULTY WITH 1983 INASMUCH AS CURRENT UNDP PROGRAM WOULD END IN 1982 AND IF UNDP CUT BACK ON REGIONAL PROJECTS IN 1983-87 PERIOD, THERE WOULD BE GREAT PRESSURE AT PLENIPOT TO FINANCE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMS IN REGULAR BUDGET AND TO REWRITE CONVENTION ACCORDINGLY.

5. ADMIN COUNCIL SLATES: SEPTTEL FOLLOWS.

6. WARC 79

A. MILI SAID IT WAS RECOGNIZED BY ALL, INCLUDING LDCS, THAT STRONG CHAIRMAN WAS NECESSARY AND SUGGESTED ROSE OF NEW ZEALAND OR LONBERG OF DENMARK WOULD BE IDEAL CHOICE, BOTH OF WHOM, HE THOUGHT, WOULD BE WIDELY ACCEPTABLE.

B. HE ENDORSED USEFULNESS OF PREPARATORY SEMINARS SPONSORED BY ITU AND CITEL, NOTED CANADIAN FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE SEMINARS AND URGED U.S. TO CONTRIBUTE TO ENSURE SUCCESS OF SEMINARS AND RESULTING IMPROVED PREPARATION OF PARTICIPANTS IN WARC.

7. UK PROPOSAL FOR MOBILE SERVICES WARC. MILI MERELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOTED PROPOSAL AND SUGGESTED U.S. STUDY, THOUGH HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT SUBJECT FOR COUNCIL TO DISCUSS IN 1978, SINCE WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR COUNCIL TO DIRECT CONFERENCE ON THIS MATTER.

8. TELECOM 79. MILI NOTED THAT WHEN U.S. PAVILION MANAGER SODOLSKI OF EIA WAS IN GENEVA ON APRIL 28, ITU OFFICIALS HAD ATTEMPTED TO DISSUADE HIM FROM DEMANDING SEPTEMBER 24 DATE ALREADY RESERVED BY FRANCE AS FRENCH NATIONAL DAY, AS U.S. NATIONAL DAY AS WELL. SODOLSKI TOLD ITU THAT STATE DEPT HAD TOLD HIM HE SHOULD STICK WITH SEPTEMBER 24. US REP TOLD MILI THAT IN FACT THIS WAS OPPOSITE FROM WHAT STATE DEPT HAD ADVISED. MILI ASKED THAT DEPT URGE EIA TO ACCEPT SEPTEMBER 25, A SUNDAY, WHICH TRADITIONALLY DRAWS LARGEST CROWD AT TELECOM EXHIBITS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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